

DiE·M·25

Democracy in Europe·Movement·2025

Mission: *TO DEMOCRATISE EUROPE – as a prerequisite for saving/civilising the EU*

A MANIFESTO FOR DEMOCRATISING EUROPE

A spectre is haunting Europe — the spectre of democracy.

All the powers of old Europe have entered into an Unholy Alliance to exorcise this spectre:

- The Brussels bureaucracy whose authority depends on remaining a democracy-free zone
- The Troika and unelected officials whose power is threatened by transparency
- Bankrupt bankers and resurgent oligarchies who are perpetually in awe of people-power
- Purveyors of fake-liberalism and pseudo-solidarity
- Governments that impose cruel austerity on their populations knowing it doesn't work
- Media moguls exploiting secrecy in the public sphere to bend public opinion to their will.

A common bureaucracy, and a common currency, now divides European peoples that were once uniting under many different languages and cultures. A confederacy of economically naïve officials and financially incompetent 'experts' is putting Europe into disrepute and is stirring up a dangerous anti-European backlash.

Proud nations are being turned against each other, with nationalism, extremism and racism the sole beneficiaries.

One after the other, the Eurozone economies are sequentially marched off the cliff of competitive austerity, the result being permanent recession in the weaker countries, low investment in the core countries, untold inequality and declining hope everywhere. Meanwhile, EU member-states outside the Eurozone are alienated, looking elsewhere for partners and inspiration.

This inefficient, authoritarian, illegitimate 'Europe' is fragmenting, with terrible consequences for Europeans and for the world at large. The only antidote to the inefficient authoritarianism that the European Union institutions are begetting is a surge of democracy. Our movement, **DiEM·25**, demands that the EU be democratised within a decade. Otherwise it will either crumble on its own or it will need to be abolished as an enemy of human dignity, economic prosperity and political freedom.

Why is Europe losing its integrity and its soul?

We let our politicians authorise unelected bureaucrats to do something that cannot be done: to turn the Commission, the Council, Ecofin, the Eurogroup and the ECB, into politics-free zones.

The futile attempt to treat political decisions as technical problems kills democracy off. The equally futile project of 'de-politicising' money engenders economic crisis.

And when democracy dies in the midst of crisis, political authority becomes illegitimate and turns into authoritarianism. Once authoritarianism raises its ugly head, the enemies of democracy gather renewed power confining hope and prosperity to the very few who cannot even enjoy it behind the gates and the fences they need to erect to protect themselves from the rest of society.

Europe's crisis has turned our nations inwards, amplifying pre-existing jingoism, xenophobia, fear of the 'other'. Privatisation of fear, nationalisation of ambition, re-nationalisation of policy is in the air. The result is that most Europeans lose out.

The scandalous abrogation of Europe's duty to the refugees landing on our shores is a mere reflection of the manner in which a broken European governance model yields ethical decline and political paralysis.

What should be done?

One simple, radical idea is the motivating force behind **DiEM25**:

Democratise Europe!

Democracy is *not* (and *cannot* be) a luxury afforded to creditors and declined to debtors.

The crushing of the Athens Spring by a ruthless troika in July 2015 wounded Europe because no country within the EU can be democratic and free as long as even one of its members is denied the right to democracy and freedom.

Democracy throughout the Europe Union is a prerequisite for a functioning, democratic, prosperous European Union. The EU bureaucracy, which today harbours a deep contempt for democracy, must be democratised. Or it will disintegrate.

Our horizon

We believe that the European Union is running out of time, quickly. Change must begin immediately and the new democratic union must come into being by 2025.

Realism demands of us to work toward reaching milestones within a manageable timeframe. This is why DiEM·25 will aim at four breakthroughs: immediately, within six months, within two years and, finally, aim to bring about a fully democratic, functional Europe by 2025.

When asked what we want in practice, and when do we want it, our answer is:

In the very short term: Full transparency in decision-making.

- EU Council, Ecofin, FTT and Eurogroup Meetings to be live-streamed
- Minutes of European Central Bank governing council meetings to be published a few weeks after the meetings have taken place
- All documents pertinent to TTIP trade negotiations, that affect every facet of European citizens' future, to be uploaded on the web

In the short term (within twelve months): Address the on-going economic crisis utilising existing institutions and within existing EU Treaties

Europe's immediate crisis unfolds in four realms simultaneously: Public debt, Banking, Inadequate Investment, and Rising Poverty. All four realms are currently left in the hands of national governments powerless to act upon them. DiEM·25 will present detailed policy proposals to Europeanise all five while returning power to national Parliaments, to regional councils, to city halls and to communities.

In the medium term (within two years): Constitutional Assembly

The people of Europe have a right and a duty to consider the union's future. To do this, an Assembly of their representatives must be convened. DiEM·25 will promote a Constitutional Assembly comprising of representatives elected on trans-national tickets. Today, when universities apply to Brussels for research funding, they must form alliances across nations. Similarly, election to the Constitutional Assembly will require tickets featuring candidates from at least fifteen European countries. The resulting Constitutional Assembly will be empowered to decide on a future democratic constitution that will replace all existing European Treaties.

In the long term (by 2025): Enactment of the decisions of the Constitutional Assembly

Who will bring change?

We, the people of Europe, have decided to regain control over our Europe from unaccountable 'technocrats'.

We are forming **DiEM·25** intent on moving from a Europe of 'We the Governments', and 'We the Technocrats', to a Europe of 'We the European People'.

Four are our principles:

- No European nation can be free as long as another's democracy is violated
- No European nation can live in dignity as long as another is denied it
- No European nation can hope for prosperity if another is pushed into permanent insolvency and depression
- Prosperity requires growth consistent with human development and ecological balance

The stubborn commitment to enforcing unenforceable rules has stoked a dirty war for Europe's integrity and soul. Rules should exist to serve Europeans, not the other way round. Currencies should be instruments, not ends-in-themselves. And a single market makes no sense unless common defences of the weaker Europeans, and of the environment, are democratically chosen and built.

Now, today, Europeans are rising up against all this everywhere. From Helsinki to Lisbon, from Dublin to Crete, from Leipzig to Belfast. We are uniting to re-write rules that jeopardise democracy and render impossible a shared pan-European prosperity.

Democratising Europe's power structures is the only way to avoid the European Union's self-destruction.

- We shall face up to the Unholy Alliance striving to perpetuate the present non-viable recapitulation of failed policies, wholesale injustice, and authoritarian practices.
- We shall join a long queue of Europeans who have struggled for centuries against the conventional wisdom that democracy is a luxury and that the weak must suffer what they must

We can hardly wait!

With our hearts and minds full of these commitments, and determined to make a difference, we declare that:

Our pledge

We, the undersigned, and many others who are eager to join us, are forming forthwith a European movement, which we call **DiEM-25**, with the explicit purpose of:

- democratising the European Union
- ending the reduction of all political relations into relations of power
- subjecting the Brussels' bureaucracy to the will of a sovereign European people, and
- re-politicising the rules that govern our single market.

We consider the model of national parties which form flimsy alliances at the level of the European Parliament to be obsolete. European democrats must come together first, forge a common agenda, and then find ways of connecting it with local communities and at the national level.

We come from every part of the continent and are *united by different* cultures, languages, accents, political party affiliations, political ideologies, skin colours, conceptions of the good society.

We are motivated by an overarching aim to democratise the European Union and are inspired by local expressions of this penchant.¹

Our differences create unity by dissolving into a common commitment for:

- *A Democratic Europe* in which political authority rests with a sovereign European people
- *A United Europe* whose citizens have as much in common across nations as within them
- *A Transparent Europe* in which all decision-making takes place under the citizens' gaze
- *A Realistic Europe* that strives for shared prosperity making the best use of available means
- *A Productive Europe* that directs investment into a shared, green prosperity
- *A Technological Europe* pressing new technologies in the service of authentic solidarity and personal liberty
- *A Cultured Europe* harnessing cultural diversity and unafraid to put on display not only its invaluable heritage but also the work of Europe's dissidents.

Join us to help the spectre of democracy beget a democratic European Union.

¹ E.g. the struggle of the people of Barcelona against predatory tourism, the campaigns to stop evictions in Madrid, the Irish movement to prevent the commodification of water, the crusade to provide higher education options to Portuguese students, the mobilisation of citizens in Calais and Hungary against xenophobia.